

March 23, 1984

LB 530

CLERK: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner, do you want to take those?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, this amendment is identical to the one that was printed in the Journal. I don't know what page that was, Mr. Clerk? 1334?

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR WARNER: The only difference is there was four words inadvertently left out in the first draft, technical, and rather than run two amendments, just refiled a correct amendment. The purpose of LB 530, of course, is to address what is becoming a significant problem, significant issue in the State of Nebraska as it has in a number of other states and that is the impact of declining highway user revenue because of the increased use of gasohol and the accompanying exemption in the tax for those. To put it in its simplest terms, the position that we are becoming more and more alert of is the fact that those who do not use the gasohol, who do not share in the exemption, are obviously paying their unfair share of the cost of highway maintenance and construction because of the reduced amount of tax. The issue of gasohol has been around a long time. It started out with very noble purposes which is an attempt to utilize grain back in the '70's, Senator Schmit first introduced it. The concept shifted in the mid '70's. It was promoted primarily as a substitute for oil when we were faced with an oil shortage. Today the principal emphasis you hear is that it is related to economic development. The hard facts are that since 1979 when separate records were kept we have lost about \$16 million of highway user revenue but the significant part is 9.1 of that occurred in the calendar year 1983. For whom does the bell toll?

SENATOR CLARK: Sorry about that. The bell just tolled for you.

SENATOR WARNER: As I indicated, for those who are left, the issue is statewide or nationwide. You just had passed out